

# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 31 January 2018

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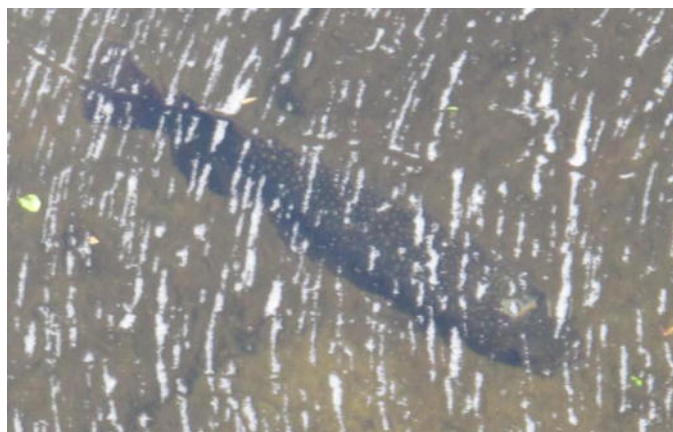
### **Welcome to Whareroa in 2018**

#### **Next Working Bee is Sunday Feb 4th 9 to noon**

We plan to work near the Hub – clearing back gorse on the Forest Loop Walk and between there and the Gums. There are weedy trees eg some poplar among the carex. The stream channel needs deepening where it crosses the track so that it stops running down the track and eroding it. Some might like to do more streamside clearance joining the work already done. The milk trees need some tidying up – removing protectors where no longer needed and some new stakes. A couple of posts are needed where the farm race ends at the stream to indicate the crossing – bikers new to the reserve sometimes almost go off the stream bank. Please bring gloves, handsaws, loppers and strong footwear. Morning tea provided.

#### **Giant kokopu seen in Whareroa waterway**

Great excitement this week when trustee Sandra spotted an 8-9 inch long giant kokopu well into Whareroa Farm. These are known to be further downstream in QEP but this was the first seen at Whareroa. The yellow patterning was quite clear. Smaller fish were swimming in the same area. A fish survey 12 years ago showed koara and banded kokopu in upper streams but no giant kokopu.



## Summer volunteer work

Volunteers have been busy over the summer: mowing and weedeating tracks; watering special plants; spraying blackberry, gorse and tradescantia and a project – walking the tracks to record on GPS ready for a new map at the entrance. DOC have funding to redo the main map/signs.

## DOC work and another volunteer day Mon Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 10am Whareroa volunteers welcome (nice BBQ provided)

DOC have been mowing tracks recently. They plan another volunteer working bee Mon Feb 12<sup>th</sup> to do more work around the carpark. Please come along and join them – if you let us know you are coming they will feed you!

## Drought and Water

The drought has had a significant impact on farming with much less stock able to be run at Whareroa this year compared with last year. We have had moderate losses in plantings along the ridge top but those in the swamp and on valley sides have done amazingly well. We have watered some special plants like the orchard trees, Rhabdothamnus and totara. Stream flow is down but there continues to be water running through all streams.

Further water pipe issues occurred with another metal pipe bursting and the reservoir emptying. Stock troughs and the toilets were not supplied for a couple of days. All going again now.



Outlet pipe exposed where water had drained away      Water inflow      Reservoir filling up again after repairs

## Kiwi Caravan

Work is proceeding well at the MenzShed. It is hoped to have the caravan back at Whareroa later in February and artist Julie Oliver aims to be working during early March. Volunteers will be needed to help.

Dulux has donated all the paint - primer, undercoat, polyurethane and the mural colours. 36L in total, a wonderful donation. Thanks Dulux and Menzshed.

## Myrtle rust – not if but when . . .

Myrtle Rust has been found in Lower Hutt. Look out for signs of myrtle rust (yellow/orange growths on leaves). If you think you see the signs of myrtle rust on pohutakawa, rata, manuka, ramarama, gums:

Call the MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline immediately on 0800 80 99 66

If you have a camera or phone camera, take clear photos, including the whole plant, the whole affected leaf, and a close-up of the spores or affected area of the plant.

***Remember, don't touch it or try to collect samples as this may increase the spread of the disease.***

## Seeds and buds



Pigeon wood seeds from Carex Valley



Kohekohe buds in Kohekohe Bush this week



## Track improvements in Ramaroa Valley and Cairn/Ti Kouka

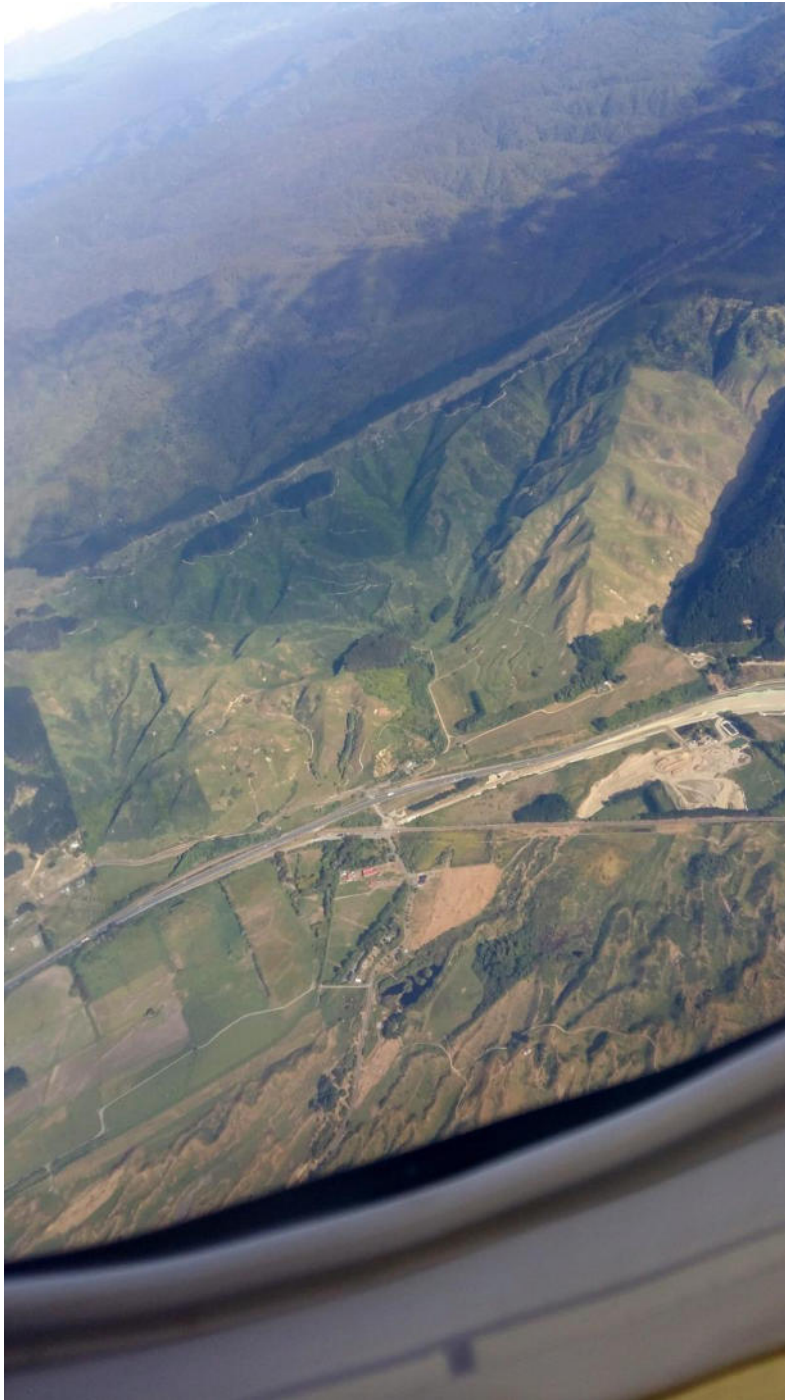
Beethams Pastural manager Drew has improved these farm tracks – so now is a really good time to walk them whilst conditions are dry and the stream crossings are easy. Thanks Drew.



**AGM - save the date - Tuesday April 10th 7pm**

**Kotare Room, Ramaroa Complex, QEP (Mackays Crossing entrance)**





Aerial view of Whareroa and QE Park from AirNZ flight

**Our contact info:**

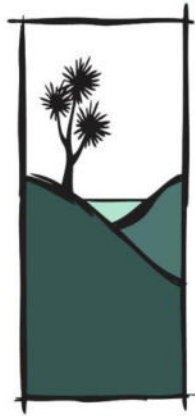
[Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) for email

<http://www.naturespace.org.nz/groups/whareroa-guardians-community-trust-inc>

<https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians> Lots of additional info is posted here

<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG> for donations





# WHAREOA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 28 February 2018

### Next Working Bee: Sunday Mar 4th 9 to noon

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We plan to work by the car park and perhaps also continue work begun last month at the far end of Forest Loop Track, approaching through the kiss gate on the farm race. Jobs are thinning the carpark vegetation to improve security and clearing gorse by the track.

A further DOC working bee made good inroads into the area – we aim to open it up and “Stem prune” the small trees so that eventually there will be a shady canopy with clear view through underneath.

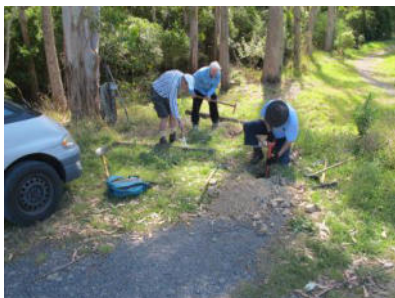
If you prefer grubbing around young plants there is plenty of scope up the Ramaroa Stream, approaching from the Farm Race.

Some of the usual volunteers will be away and Theo, Sandra and Bruce will be coordinating activities. Please bring gloves, handsaws, loppers and strong footwear. Morning tea provided.

### Last working bee: 4<sup>th</sup> February

A lovely start to the Whareroa Year with 18 hard workers busy near the Hub. Most worked along the far section of the Forest Loop Walk, clearing gorse and cutting away poplar saplings (bigger than they looked from the path). Volunteers really got into the vegetation and cleared heaps.

Bill, Peter and Bruce dug holes in rocky terrain to provide the structure for a barrier to stop mountain bikers launching into space above the stream (accidentally or deliberately!). Small bushes will be planted.



Bill, Peter & Bruce putting in posts



Penny & Sue trying to find the poplar's trunk



Dawn & Jan getting right into weeding

**Many thanks to:** Bill Jansen, June & Sandra Rowland, Richard Caldwell, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Peter Kentish, Alison Parsons, Dawn Bush, Penny Redward, Ellen Soulliere, Jan Nisbet, Bruce Bulmer, Sue Campbell, Shane Williamson, Theo Barsanti, Bernard McManus, Bernard Cammack & Ann Evans.

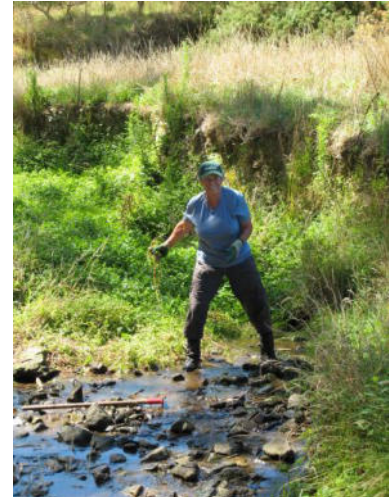
A special event was celebrating Bill's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a cake baked by Penny. Bill has been a regular volunteer since the beginning and still digs a good hole. Whareroa must be good for our health!



Bill digging



Alison attacking gorse



Penny clearing celery weed in stream



Not much birthday cake left! The gang resting at morning tea. Ti Kouka plantings (2013) rear right, Matai Bush rear left.



## DOC 2nd volunteer day Feb 12<sup>th</sup>

Twelve more staff members from DOC head office turned out for a hard morning's work in the car park vegetation. Theo from the Guardians helped with his Landie. Many thanks everyone.

## Water

As discussed last month, there have been issues with the 75 year old water supply. DOC recently approved funding to upgrade the whole water system to prevent further pipe breakages and provide a consistent clean water supply for entrance facilities and stock troughs. Kapiti MarinesNZ Trust and DOC's historical staff as well as the Guardians were involved in the final outcome. No historic structures will be removed. A smaller pipe will be passed along inside the old 6 inch steel water main connecting the water intake to two new 30,000L tanks to be placed in front of the reservoir, to be shielded with manuka. Their overflow will go into the reservoir. Further new piping will follow the old main to the Ramaroa Stream terminus. This should provide safe water for many decades. Thanks DOC and especially ranger Suzi Tuffin who has pushed this through.



Burst pipe geyser, April 2017



Suzi Tuffin(DOC), Jenny Rowan (MarinesNZ), Theo Barsanti, Jack Mace (DOC), Ann Evans & Barry the plumber met this week to discuss siting of tanks. They will go behind Jack. The reservoir will still be easily visible from the south and west where interpretation signage is provided by Kapiti MarinesNZ Trust.

## Bird Sign at the Hub



A new sign appeared at the Hub this week, donated anonymously via the Kapiti Biodiversity Project.



Many thanks to the donor and to Sue Blaikie and Glenda Robb for facilitating this project. We hope further signs will appear when funds permit - similar ones about native fish and lizards have been donated to QE Park and it would be nice to share with a larger “audience”.

This sign was placed next to the site for the Kiwi Caravan which is close to completion and its return to Whareroa for mural painting.



Richard mowing the Hub at last working bee



Ellen, June & Sandra enjoying the Hub



The ford crossing Whareroa Stream South Branch by the Gums; new posts with signs to make it easier to find the Dell.

**Next working bee – Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 9 to noon (Easter weekend)**

**AGM - Tuesday April 10th 7pm. Kotare Room, Ramaroa Complex, QEP (Mackays Crossing entrance)**

Come and see the new QEP visitor centre. Paul Callister from NgaUruora and Kapiti Biodiversity Project will tell us about local lizard restoration and possibilities for Whareroa to be involved.

### **Our contact info:**

[Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:Whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) for email

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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 28 March 2018

### **Next Working Bee: Sunday April 1st 9 to noon**

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This month we will be in around the Hub and Dell again.

We have three totara posts to erect on the terrace above the Dell. The track down on the western side needs some more work to level and widen it: a good start was made a couple of months ago. We might also clear away some of the undergrowth around the biggest totara tree above the Dell to make it part of the Dell “experience”. There are always plants to release and plants to be trimmed along the track. Please bring gloves, handsaws, loppers and strong footwear. Morning tea provided.

### **AGM - Tuesday April 10th 7pm. Kotare Room, Ramaroa Complex, QEP (Mackays Crossing entrance)**

Come and see the new QEP visitor centre. Paul Callister from NgaUruora and Kapiti Biodiversity Project and Angus Hulme-Moir from DOC will tell us about local lizard restoration and possibilities for Whareroa to be involved. Membership subs can be reviewed (and new members welcome) – we do appreciate your ongoing financial support; it helps with the development of the reserve and having a strong membership gives the Trust credibility when applying for grants.

All supporters and friends are welcome

### **Last working bee: 4<sup>th</sup> March**

An excellent session continuing the work of DOC volunteers to clear vegetation by the carpark to open it up so that thieves can't hide and people will be less likely to dump their rubbish. Two car wheels were found in the undergrowth as well as lots of bottles and cans. Yuk. It is already hugely better and another group of DOC workers will be coming on April 10<sup>th</sup> to clear out more. Quite a few of the usual gang were away but those that came did masses. Theo's landrover pulled out more flax. Richard and Tom were mowing tracks with “Miss Piggy”; Tom has offered to help with mowing on a regular basis – thanks Tom. Bernard C was beavering on the Dell loop track.



**Many thanks to:** Sandra & John Rowland, Richard Caldwell, Alison & Hugh Parsons, Bruce Bulmer, Sue Campbell, Shane Williamson, Theo Barsanti, Tom Parker, Sarah & Felix McMurray, Steve Blyth with Elsa & Rufus Blyth-Dibley, Bernard Cammack and two volunteers we do not have names for (front right in pic). If you know, please let us know who they are.



Morning tea



Cleared car park vegetation to give good sight lines

## Water Supply



Old pipe to left, new pipe to right, going up to reservoir



A new small pond, below the nikau by Matai Bush



You may have noticed the new green tanks up by the reservoir. New piping now carries water from the intake, through the old pipes to these tanks (see above). Further new pipe takes it across to the Ramaroa Stream. Side pipes take water to troughs and the toilets. Overflow from the green tanks will go back into the reservoir; visitors will still be able to see the historic structure. We will plant along the northern side of the tanks to screen them from view. It was a complex job with many excavations to find the old pipe. A side benefit is a new small pond below the nikau trees where the water table was very high. Plumber Barry Stone did a very complex job. In addition he kindly filled in the trenches by the picnic table at the Hub to give a safer area, ready for the caravan. Thanks Barry.



Water Intake settlement chamber, full after heavy rain



Overflow takes excess back to the stream



Lynette clearing out duckweed on early morning walk



Trenches in Hub now filled in to give a level area

## Rain and stream erosion



Heavy rain March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> - damage at end of the Forest Loop Walk by washing down the track and bank erosion

## Kiwi Caravan & Mural

The caravan has now been completed by Menzshed volunteers. Many many thanks to their team and to Shane Cave for coordinating the project.

Piles were inserted by Shane Cave, Shane Williamson and Peter Davis and it is hoped that the caravan will be transported back to Whareroa to its new home at the Hub by mid-April. M2PP Alliance are donating the transport as part of their community support – thanks NZTA.

Julie Oliver, artist will come as soon as weather settled – volunteers will be needed to help with painting. Send us an email if you would like to be involved. [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com)



Piles ready for caravan



As it was

## Warning Low Flying Helicopters along Campbell's Mill Rd April 5 & 6

Transpower, the owner and operator of the National Grid, is undertaking helicopter inspections on sections of its Bunnythorpe – Wilton transmission line in and around Campbell's Mill Road, Mulhern Road, Belmont Regional Park and Johnsonville to Wilton

This work will involve a helicopter flying approximately 150 m above the line at a constant speed. Please note in event of bad weather the work will occur on the next fine day.

### Future Dates:

#### Working bee – Sunday May 6th 9 to noon

#### "In the Footsteps of the Marines" Run/walk. Sat May 27<sup>th</sup> 9.30am

This year's event, organised by Kapiti Joggers & Walkers, will be totally off public roads, using Whareroa Farm tracks and Campbell's Mill Rd. Thanks to Kapiti Mountain Bike Club who are allowing the use of their new "Red Tape Track" so a good opportunity for runners and walkers to check it out (normally only open to downhill mountain bikes). It is a scenic hilly run or walk following the challenging route march described by Leon Uris in "Battle Cry." The event commemorates the arrival of US forces in New Zealand during World War Two. The course has climbs of about 300m. A good standard of fitness is required. There are three race categories:

1. Race Walkers (11.5km)
2. Social Walkers and Slow Joggers (9.5km)
3. Runners (11.5km - able to run 11 kms at 7 minutes per km rate or faster)

Sign up at: [Enteronline.co.nz](http://Enteronline.co.nz)





# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 03 May 2018 – a mega issue

**Next Working Bee: Sunday May 6th 9 to noon**

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Meet at the Hub, follow flags. We had planned to release last year's plantings in Ramaroa Wetland but there is still quite a bit of work to do around caravan so we will finish that job off. Others can please continue clearing gorse between Gums and Forest Loop walk or releasing plantings in the Dell. Please bring gloves, handsaws, loppers and strong footwear. Morning tea provided at the Hub.

**STOP PRESS.** The **KIWI CARAVAN** has arrived back at Whareroa. **More info later in Update**



### **Last working bee: 1<sup>st</sup> April**

It was lovely to have some Kapiti Keas and their families join us. They took on the project of clearing the undergrowth around the giant totara above the Dell. Adults and bigger kids sawed the weeds



and bushes down and everyone dragged the bits away. It is impressive to see the huge roots and the mass of the trunk.



To recognise the history of totara on the farm, three old totara fence posts were erected on the terrace above the Dell by Theo & Tom. Originally all the farm slopes were covered with kohekohe forest with totara, matai, tawa, kahikatea & titoki trees which were cleared for pasture. There are a few old totara still scattered about as well as pockets of remnant forest. Two totara seedlings were planted. We plan to add a couple more old fence posts to make a “feature”.





Dawn, Bill & Kieran weeded the Rhabdothamnus. This summer was one of survival rather than growth but only one was lost to drought thanks to volunteer watering. During morning tea the ngaio tree was checked out for climbing.



The usual morning tea break and catch up

**Many thanks to:** Sandra & June Rowland, Richard Caldwell, Theo & Gabe Barsanti, Tom Porter, Harrison & Madeleine Tapper, Ann Evans, Bernard Cammack, Bill Jansen, Dawn Bush, Kieran Durrant-Bush, Laura van Peer, Liz, Emily & Thomas Johnstone, Katrina Sowry, Erina Hooper, Paul, Aki, Kentaro & Takumi Baggott, Eric, Griffan and Limelda Gunawan.



## AGM - Tuesday April 10th 7pm

Hardy stalwarts turned out on a horrible night for our AGM.

All current trustees continue as Theo Barsanti, Ruby Durrant-Bush and Bruce Bulmer were re-elected unopposed. The Board also includes Mic Keith, Ann Evans, Liffet Stewart, Sue Blaikie, Ian Redward, Sandra Rowland with Carol Reihana as iwi trustee.

Paul Callister from NgaUruora and Kapiti Biodiversity Project and Angus Hulme-Moir from DOC gave a fascinating talk about local lizard restoration and possibilities for Whareroa to be involved.



**A lizard workshop will be held in Kapiti on 16 June.** To register go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/communities-supporting-nz-lizards-tickets-42301639342?aff=eac2>



Now all pests have gone, lizards are thriving on Mana Island!

***Is anyone interested in being involved in a lizard area at Whareroa? If so, please contact us.***

## **Kiwi Caravan**

After considerable thought it was decided that the proposed location of the caravan was too close to the fence so a gang turned up on April 15<sup>th</sup> to dig new foundations on a more open site. Richard's generator was invaluable to run the skill saw. *Many thanks to builder Bill Duncan for putting up the profiles and to Peter Davis, Theo Barsanti, Shane Cave, Bruce Bulmer, Darrell Sutherland, Rodney Hopkirk, Richard Caldwell, John Rowland and Ann Evans.*



Digging holes



DOC's cement mixer



Checking levels



Richard & Rodney with extracted pile



Piles ready for bench seat



John, Peter, Theo, Richard, Rodney, Darrel & Bruce



Rough ground was evened using soil from holes and the original piles will be used to make a bench seat. Peter Davis designed the seat and a deck. This area will now really be a “Hub” with plenty of seating and a shelter. John Rowland dug in 3 more piles for a deck and a further working bee on April 22nd saw the deck bearers attached. Mitre10 give us discount *Thanks John, Peter, Richard and Ann.*



**Kapiti Menzshed restored the caravan over many months.**



Many thanks to Menzshed workers Fred Borrett, Brian Devane, John Orr & Robbie McKee



Fred and Brian at Menzshed

The following weekend saw the deck built. Peter supervised the building and Theo measured and hammered. Richard was in charge of the saws. Ann did lots of hammering lying on her back underneath the caravan. Bruce’s chalk marker ensured the lines of nails were straight.

**Artist Julie Oliver** will come when free and weather looks settled to paint the mural (funded by a grant from Wellington Community Trust with paint donated by Dulux).



Finishing touches



DOC's Suzi with trustees after a meeting at farm

The caravan was transported back thanks to the M2PP Alliance. It will be locked until inside work finished and mural painted. Once work is completed it will be open for all visitors to enjoy.

**Trust funds are totally depleted having bought materials for the refit & deck – donations towards this cost would be gratefully received – please send cheque to Mic Keith, Treasurer, 8 Te Miti St, Paekakariki or pay direct: Whareroa Guardians Community Trust 03 0732 0429996 00. Thank you. A reminder that family life membership is \$500.**

### **Possum trappers urgently needed over winter to protect next bird nesting season.**

Please contact pest coordinator Shane Cave to find out more: [shane.cave@gmail.com](mailto:shane.cave@gmail.com) . You will get plenty of regular exercise and make a huge contribution to the reserve and wider biodiversity.

### **Track Update**

In winter the Ramaroa Valley track is usually **very** wet and pugged. However Catchment View Track is now quite well trampled and always reasonably dry as on an exposed ridge. There are 3 nice little seats along the way to look back and enjoy the view as well as a picnic table near the top – thanks to structure builders Don Beggs, Penny & Ian Redward and Richard Caldwell.

### **Future Dates:**

#### **“In the Footsteps of the Marines” Run/walk. Sat May 27<sup>th</sup> 9.30am**

This year’s event, organised by Kapiti Joggers & Walkers, will be totally off public roads, using Whareroa Farm tracks and Campbell’s Mill Rd. It is a scenic hilly run or walk following the challenging route march described by Leon Uris in "Battle Cry." The event commemorates the arrival of US forces in New Zealand in 1942.

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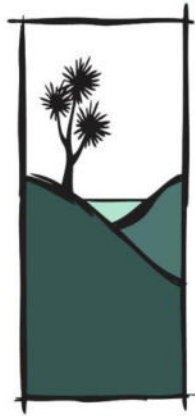
Sign up at: [Enteronline.co.nz](http://Enteronline.co.nz)

### **Sunday June 3rd. 10am. Caravan Mural “Opening” and Kohekohe Flowering Day**

**Planting will be on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings from mid-June. Please diarise.**

**Contact Us:** [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians>





# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 30 May 2018

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### **Kiwi Caravan Opening with Kohekohe Flowering Celebration**

**Sun June 3rd 10.30am at the Hub. All welcome.**

You have already received details. The kohekohe flowers are really amazing this year, we can show places “off the beaten track” to appreciate them. After opening the caravan will be left unlocked for visitors to use (except when artist Julie comes back to complete the mural). We are delighted with the emerging art work – Julie will return in August/Sept.



***It is essential that the door is bolted closed on leaving to protect the inside from the weather.***

## Last working bee: 06 May



Further carpentry saw the bench seat built, more fixings under the caravan and polyurethaning of caravan interior. Ground levelling was done and LOTS of gorse removed between the Gums and the Forest Loop Walk – a diversion of the track may be needed due to stream erosion at the footbridge. Theo and John dug in two more totara fence posts above the Dell – now there are five reminders of the early settlers and their clearance of the bush. Next to them are two totara seats as well as a bench and table made from more recent fencing materials. Linda released plants and Bernard worked on the track in the Dell.



Beauden helping with earth works



New bench.



Area west of Gums cleared of gorse

**Many thanks to:** Sandra, John & June Rowland, Richard Caldwell, Theo Barsanti, Tom Porter, Ann Evans, Bernard Cammack, Dawn Bush, Ralph, Zara, Harvey & Beauden Cammack, Nicki Vinten, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Sue Campbell, Linda Hill, Peter Davis, Bruce Bulmer, Penny & Ian Redward, Bernard McManus, Mark & Pip Pennington.





One of the cut gorse piles



From this to . . . . .this in a couple of hours. Peter D design



Thanks to Richard who has built and donated an additional bench to sit inside the caravan.

**More on the mural:**



Julie has so far spent four days painting the mural. It has been a privilege watching her work. She applies multiple layers of paint to give depth; moving around constantly so that the image flows around corners and fits into its location. Each side reflects different aspects of Whareroa.

**Is anyone interested in being involved in creating a lizard area at Whareroa?**

**If so, please contact us.**

**A lizard workshop will be held at Nga Manu on 16 June.** To register go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/communities-supporting-nz-lizards-tickets-42301639342?aff=eac2>

**Possum trappers urgently needed over winter to protect next bird nesting season.**

Please contact pest coordinator Shane Cave to find out more: [shane.cave@gmail.com](mailto:shane.cave@gmail.com) . You will get plenty of regular exercise and make a huge contribution to the reserve and wider biodiversity.

**“In the Footsteps of the Marines” Run/walk. Sat May 27<sup>th</sup>**

This year’s event was a big success with 137 participants. They enjoyed being totally off public roads, particularly using the mountain bikers’ “Red Tape Track” which was closed to bikes for the event.

It was a hilly run/walk following the challenging route march described by Leon Uris in "Battle Cry." The event commemorates the arrival of US forces in New Zealand in 1942. Thanks Kapiti Joggers & Walkers for organising this each year.

# Whareroa Planting Dates

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings from mid-June. Please diarise:**

**Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday Aug 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday Aug 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Possibly 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in September**

Meet 9am, finish about noon. Follow the flags. Morning tea provided and a hot dog back at the shed afterwards. Easy and heavy tasks available. Wear boots and gloves. Bring a spade. All welcome, especially children.

**Plants for this year have been purchased by a \$8,000 grant from the Lion Foundation, many thanks for this donation.**

We will mainly continue Ramaroa Wetland restoration – see below



**Contact Us:** [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/WhareroaGuardians>



Kohekohe flowers - “stars on the ground”.

NB Glow-worms twinkle at night by the bridge in the Gums. Ruru call at dusk and dawn.





# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 14 June 2018

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### **It's planting time again! Sun 17<sup>th</sup> - 9 to noon.**

First we will plant the newly fenced triangle by the reservoir. This is one possible site for lizard encouragement so we will use plants which are lizard friendly. It has both swamp and dry zones. There is some dead gorse to be removed to expose planting land.

1000 plants arrived this morning, grown by The Greenery, Pukehou and funded by Lion Foundation. We aim to plant about 2,500 this year, mainly in Ramaroa Wetland. 8am unloaders below.



Please follow the flags. Wear boots/wellies, garden gloves and bring digging tools. Morning tea and BBQ hot dog back at the shed afterwards. All welcome; light and heavier jobs available.

### **Kiwi Caravan Opening with Kohekohe Flowering Celebration**

This was a wonderful event on June 3<sup>rd</sup> with about 60 people aged 2 to 90 turning out on a chilly morning. Theo thanked all involved especially Kapiti Menzshed, Wellington Community Trust for funding the artist and display cabinets and Dulux NZ for donating all the paint (and of course Guardians' volunteers).

Paul Jansen and Rogan Colburn shared anecdotes from their time living in the caravan on Kapiti Island, studying kiwi. Fred Borrett described the challenges of restoration, Suzi Tiffin spoke about DOC's work with the Guardians, Jenny Rowan spoke about the saving of Whareroa, Ann thanked the donor of the lovely Bird Sign then Ruby "opened" the caravan with her feeling of hope for the future, inspired by Whareroa.



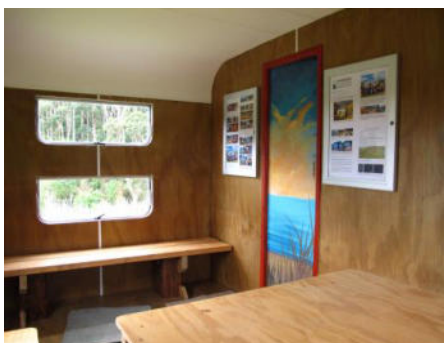
Paul and Rogan



Fred



Ruby



Interior showing information displays



Father and son, Bill & Paul



Jill & Bruce under kohekohe

A wonderful shared morning tea was enjoyed; thanks to donors of the "goodies".

Artist Julie will return in August/Sept to complete the mural.

The kohekohe flowers continue to be really amazing, visitors appreciated seeing some "off the beaten track" locations. There is still time to see and smell them but petals are falling.



# Money!

**Many thanks to those who responded to our request for donations.** We can now afford the sausages for planting days! We apply for grants for specific purposes eg fencing, plants and signs but rely on membership subs and donations for incidental expenses eg purchasing saws and blades, printing brochures, fuel for LUV, advert for AGM etc. All donations are used at Whareroa. Many volunteers also donate use of their equipment eg weeders, saws, trailers, landrover. . . .

A thought – have you considered leaving a bequest to the Trust? Please contact us if you would like more information.

## Snippets



Left: Portacabin at Whareroa will be present for a few weeks during roadworks. As appreciation, Fulton Hogan will do some “jobs” to benefit the reserve.

Thanks Bruce for the kohekohe picture.

## Pest Control

20 possums were killed last month bringing total pests removed since 2013 to 4457. The group welcome Joe Wilson. The pest team are taking part in national trials of different techniques for lures, remote sensing traps etc along with QE Park and NgaUruora. Thanks guys.

## Wednesday Weeders

This small group have been going for 2 years, quietly slashing and grubbing blackberry and gorse to great effect. Further volunteers are welcome. Liffet Stewart coordinates them. Thanks guys and girls.

## A message from Queen Elizabeth Park Friends:

“Dear Guardians. We're wondering if any of your members/supporters would be interested in signing this petition we have launched to coincide with GWRC's review of its network plan. Any support would be much appreciated. We love your caravan by the way!

Regards, trustees of the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park.

Dear Friends,

I just added the petition "Save the Raumati wetlands in Queen Elizabeth Park as Kapiti's most efficient carbon sink."

It would mean a lot to me if you took a moment to add your name because:

This is important as Wellington has only 2-3 percent of its wetlands remaining. It would be a key climate-change initiative for the Kapiti Coast as drained peat lands emit significant amounts of carbon but absorb large amounts when re-wetted. As invasive weeds such as gorse and blackberry cannot survive in wetlands, it would also allay community concerns about fire risk and use of herbicides. A former walk through the wetland sand dune could also be restored for public access in this recreation reserve.

<https://our.actionstation.org.nz/petitions/save-the-raumati-wetlands-in-queen-elizabeth-park-and-create-kapiti-s-biggest-carbon-sink>

Real change happens when everyday people like you and I come together and stand up for what we believe in. Together we can reach heaps of people and help create change around this important issue."

## Whareroa Planting Dates

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings from mid-June. Please diarise:**

**Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday Aug 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday Aug 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Possibly 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in September**

All welcome, especially children.

**Contact Us:** Email [whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com)

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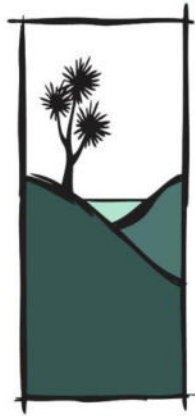
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<http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/WhareroaG> for donations



Part of planting area for Sunday





# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 26 July 2018

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*Planting Season is well underway – thanks to all who are helping*

**Next session Sunday 05 August: 9-noon. Continuing Ramaroa Wetland**

### Planting 15 July

33 keen volunteers turned up to continue boundary planting around Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2. Welcome to newcomers and to some old returnees. The whole block now has tough wind resistant plants to form a shelter belt. These were mainly from the olearia family as well as tauhinau, akeake and hebe stricta. We found last year's carex secta are thriving along with a good proportion of the trees, despite last summer's drought. Sadly, a few totara had died.



The “Peninsula” had about 60 totara planted, using gorse bushes as shelter as well as more shelter trees along with kowhai along the banks. These were staked, and the concept is to have a totara “forest” between the two wetland areas. More swamp plants – umbrella sedge, a giant carex (*geminata*) as well as flax also went in. We found it was possible to walk over the swamp without sinking in. Ian and Bruce went back a few days later to complete staking and carpeting.



The swamp with shelter plantings beyond

**Many thanks to:** Theo Barsanti, Dawn Bush, Richard Caldwell, Ruby Durrant-Bush, Ann Evans, Linda Hill, Bill Jansen, Penny & Ian Redward, John, June & Sandra Rowland, Ellen Soulliere, Liffet Stewart, Peter Kentish, Bernard McManus, Jan Nisbet, Dawn Bush, Bruce Bulmer, Karen Adams, Louise Conwell, John & Marilyn Wilson, Audrey Barber, Greg Sherley, Chris Barber, Sage Wills, Julie, Neil & Alex Symons, Bernard Cammack, Tom Porter, Don & Mary Beggs and Noel Sundgren.



Chris climbing out of the swamp



Looking across this season’s plantings

Also on the Sunday morning Jan was coordinating some family activities through KCDC’s “Number 8 Wire” holiday programme.



## *Training*

Our keen volunteers continue to upskill for work at Whareroa. Theo, Shane Cave and Bernard Cammack spent a day having a refresher chain saw course (having already spent 3 days a couple of years ago!). They are now approved to cut down old man gorse as well as deal with smaller tree falls.

Shane Cave, Liffet Stewart, Ian Redward and Jason Bohmer also spent a day learning to drive the LUV. The LUV is so useful in all sorts of ways – moving plants, carrying weed eating and spray gear, gathering fence posts etc. The training is pretty exciting as it exposes trainees to difficult situations (so they know what to avoid!). *Many thanks to DOC for funding these training sessions.*

## *“Spade Aid in the Park” June 29th 10am Mackays Crossing entrance*

Everyone is welcome to join in a mass planting of 5000 native trees in Queen Elizabeth Park. There will be music and a sausage sizzle. If you’re suffering planting deprivation and can’t wait until our next session the following weekend, do go along and help our neighbouring park.

## *Progress in The Dell*

John Rowland spent several hours improving the access to Kamahi Lookout above the Dell. There is now a reasonable loop taking one up and over with a great position for relaxation and looking out. There are seats and now “Totara Henge” with some grand old totara and other big trees nearby. Bernard is steadily working on a loop return track in Upper Dell. We will plant there mid-August.



“Totara Henge” created from old fence posts on the farm. These would have been made from local totara trees





Sandra & Jan admiring John's track where it joins Bernard's. Kamahi Lookout – volunteers built seats from recycled wood

## Whareroa Planting Dates

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings from mid-June. Please diarise:**

**Sunday Aug 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Possibly 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in September – there will definitely be a working bee that day.**

Please follow the flags. Wear boots/wellies, garden gloves and bring digging tools. Morning tea and BBQ hot dog back at the shed afterwards. All welcome, especially children; many different jobs.



Kereru tucking in to tree Lucerne just by the Gums stream crossing

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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 15 Aug 2018

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*Planting Season is well underway – many thanks to all who are helping*

**Next session Sunday 19 August: 9-noon. Planting behind the Cairn**

**Glen from Kapiti Island Eco has generously donated \$500 worth of plants. Thanks Glen.**

We are hoping to develop a lizard friendly area above the Cairn; the existing north facing concrete structure and the cliff face will act as heat traps. Some planting was done three years ago with mixed success. There is a pond up there behind the dam and we will plant carex and sedges around the edges as well as toetoe and “divaricating” plants like muehlenbeckia and low coprosmas which provide safe places for lizards and berries for food. There will be some gorse and thistles to clear so bring hand saws, spades, grubbers, good gloves and boots. Morning tea and hot dog after. Any early risers are welcome from 8am to help move plants.

### Planting 05 Aug



29 keen volunteers turned up to continue planting in Ramaroa Wetland Stage 2, this time along the slopes of the waterways with ribbon wood, kowhai and more regen plants. Good to see new faces as well as those who came earlier in the season or in previous years and of course, our hardy regulars. We found hares had nibbled a few of the plants waiting on site to go in.

**Many thanks to:** Theo & Gabe Barsanti, Dawn Bush, Richard Caldwell, Kieran Durrant-Bush, Ann Evans, Ellen Soulliere, Bernard McManus, Dawn Bush, Bruce Bulmer, Chris Barber, Sage Wills, Bernard Cammack, Tom Porter, Yolande Brophy, Sue Campbell, James Micael, Caroline-Charlette Myers, Darryl Royal, Cory & Bill van Peer, Chris & Holly Worts, Lara Bailey, Graeme Stuart, Fran Parkin, Alison Parsons and Noel Sundgren. Also to Laura van Peer and Frances McMillan for gourmet hot dogs with homemade relish and watercress.



Holly and Chris



Darryl, Lara and Graeme



Alison and Sue



Noel, Bruce and Tom



Kieran dropping off carpet squares



Richard





## Volunteers please for Paraparaumu Beach School Planting Day Weds Sept 12<sup>th</sup>

This will be the fifth year that students have come along for planting and other activities at Whareroa. 180 children will come, split into morning and afternoon. There will be teachers and parents but volunteers are also needed to help supervise planting and help with bush walks. ***Please send us an email if you can help for either part or all day.*** It is enjoyable. Thank you.

## Fulton Hogan mitigation

Visitors will have noticed work on farm race to improve access for stock trucks. This work is provided by Fulton Hogan in exchange for using Whareroa as their base for recent road works. They are also looking at upgrading the Ramaroa Stream culvert; plans and consents are under way. It'll be good to avoid flooding over the race as previously happened (see below). Thanks guys.



A reminder – Flooding over the Farm Race in May 2015

## Stoats and other Pests

Whareroa Trustee vet Sue Blaikie has been carrying out post mortems on stoats caught at Whareroa and QE Park for the last 5 years – she has just completed number 70. They are weighed and measured, sexed and stomach contents analysed to assess what they have been eating. Thanks to the consistent work by our amazing trapping team, 4497 mammalian pests have been caught since April 2013 including 145 mustelids (stoats and weasels). This will be making a huge difference as if those animals had been left to breed our bird, lizard and weta populations would be greatly reduced. Many thanks to trappers and to Sue for her analysis.

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**Whareroa farming as it was - 1984.**

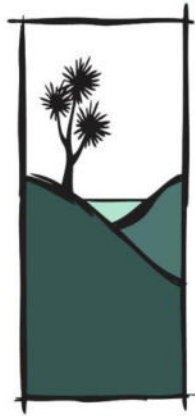


Mustering



Top dressing with fertiliser on a Whareroa Farm Open Day





# WHAREOA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 30 Aug 2018

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*Planting Season is almost done - many thanks to all who have helped*

**Next working bee: Sunday 19 August: 9-noon. Morning tea but no BBQ**  
*Activity in the Dell and by "Penny's Pond"*

Last year's plantings in the Dell need some loving care and releasing and we will plant some more Carex in the valley bottom and some trees in Upper Dell where gorse has been cleared. There are a few gorse and ink weed stragglers which need dealing to. Some posts for signs for pending "Toyota Kiwi Guardians" course are needed and grass seed to be sown on path up to the Lookout.



Some can plant carex and flax by "Penny's Pond", made whilst waterpipe was being replaced – the new pipe runs along the bottom of this little pond and the area around is very marshy so a good site for a mini wetland. Ducks have already discovered it.

## Kiwi Caravan Mural completed.

Artist Julie Oliver and partner Tim have just spent 4 more days completing the mural with lots more detail including “aspirational” birds. They gave generously of their time as visitors observed the work progressing and even allowed children to do some sketching.

***Many thanks to Julie and Tim and to the Wellington Community Trust for funding this art work.***





## Volunteers please for Paraparaumu Beach School Planting Day Weds Sept 12<sup>th</sup>

This will be the fifth year that students have come along for planting and other activities at Whareroa. 180 children will come, split into morning and afternoon. There will be teachers and parents but volunteers are also needed to help supervise planting and help with bush activities. **Please send us an email if you can help for either part or all day.** Thanks to those already "in".

### *Last session Sunday 19 August: Work behind the Cairn*

Work was done to develop a lizard friendly area above the Cairn; the existing north facing concrete structure and the cliff face will act as heat traps. Gorse was removed and we were pleased to find lots of mountain flax had survived on the face. The pond was planted with carex and sedges around the edges and also across the dry bottom (but see later) as well as toetoe and "divaricating" plants like muehlenbeckia and low coprosmas to provide safe havens for lizards and berries for food. Liffet was using new skills as LUV driver and the usual hot dogs were appreciated - 55 sausages – a record!



Many thanks to: Paul England & Denise & Peter Katz, Helen Griffiths, Frances McMillan (Morning tea and lunch), Bill & Laura Van Peer, Tom Porter, Claire Thorley, Kurt & Lucas Harvey, Keesha Furze, Rose Sinclair, Richard, Dawn, Ruby and Kieran, Marilyn & John Wilson, Liffet Stewart, Peter Kentish, Peter Davies, Jan Nesbit, Raewyn Midwinter, Paul England, Julie & Alexander & Neil Symons.

Scout /Guide/Brownie group: Dan, Paula, Dan, Steve, Hoani, Aki, Paul, Ken, Takumi, Harry, Jess, Timothy, Olivia, Emery, Monty, Zoe, David, Emily.



Tracking tunnel record – mice only



Working on the quarry face



and in/around the pond

**Glen from Kapiti Island Eco generously donated \$500 worth of plants. Thanks Glen.**

Oops. It rained after planting & the pond filled up. After 10 days of immersion Liffet decided the underwater plants had better be “unplanted”. Sandra, Liffet and Ruby got very wet and muddy rescuing 100 plants & replanting them above & along the high water line. Thanks to the hardy gang.



**5000 animals !** Whareroa Pest Animal catch August 2018 – from Shane Cave

Sometime over the last month or so the 5000th pest animal was caught on Whareroa farm, that’s from a start date of April 2013. The combined catch from box traps and possum traps is 4,557. In addition the Goodnature resetting gas traps have now caught 624 animals - we don’t know what was killed but we do know that something was as there are counters on each trap which record every time it fires.

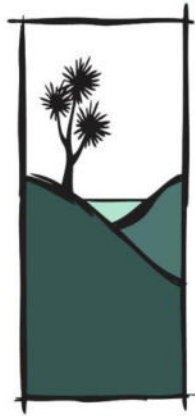
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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 03 October 2018

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**Next working bee: Sunday 07 October: 9-noon with morning tea**  
*Activity above the Cairn and final planting/tidying Ramaroa Wetland*

Please bring hand saws to tackle a bit of gorse, grubbers to tackle lots of thistles (how big will be the largest chomped out?). We'll plant Muehlenbeckia complexa on the slope behind the concrete (more good lizard habitat) and release plants. Wear good gloves and footwear and follow the flags.

*Last session 02 September – somewhat moist*



Remaining Carex secta moved down to Penny's Pond and planted along with 2 pukeatea and 2 kahikatea and some cabbage trees. Some totara and a miro planted near Ti Kouka Stream. NB Earlier plantings of flax and cabbage trees (centre left) are now well established. Kamahi Bush (centre) is recovering well – 10 years ago it was very exposed and sparse. Lots of different trees in there, well worth an explore – access at beginning of Dell track – turn right and sidle round the hill.



Bruce put up 4 posts for signs, the ground is very soft which made it easier. Morning tea in the caravan, listening to the rain. There is a new hook so the wind will no longer catch the door and slam it. Please write in the Visitors' Book so we can build up a picture of how the caravan is used.



Tom, Theo, Ellen, Penny, Dawn, Bruce, Sandra and Sue. Missing from pic: Liffet & Ann

Then we moved to the Dell to release plants and do some "tidying" along the tracks. Some trees were struggling against inkweed and long grass. Next winter we will have another significant planting in the Upper Dell with flax in swampy bottom and trees on some slopes.

*Many thanks to: Tom Porter, Dawn Bush, Liffet Stewart, Ann Evans, Theo Barsanti, Bruce Bulmer, Sue Campbell (with cookies), Penny Redward, Ellen Soulliere, Sandra Rowland (and morning tea). Richard Caldwell brought along more carpet squares.*

**Whareroa Snippets:** Fruit trees in the Whareroa Orchard are flowering well. Helen Griffiths noted 19 species of birds on a morning's walk last week. We are waiting to hear the first shining cuckoo.



## *Whareroa School Planting and Farm Activity Day Sept 12th*

176 year 5 & 6 students from Paraparaumu Beach School spent the day at Whareroa along with their teachers and parent supporters. Jan Nisbet coordinated the day in association with Rob and Oliver from the Sustainable Coastlines Trust.

Over 250 plants were planted in Ramaroa Wetland, next to the area they had planted last year. Some were also planted in the Dell. About 100 bags of seed balls were thrown into gorse and lots of bush immersion experience happened. Long grass on a steep slope gave lots of entertainment, just getting through it as well as rolling downhill. How many children does it take to encircle the giant totara tree? It was impossible to keep them still long enough to count but it was lots.



Many thanks to volunteers who helped out; Theo Barsanti, Ann Evans, Dawn Bush, Noel Sundgren and Jean Fleming. Also to John Rowland for digging the holes in advance.

The seed balls were donated by Kapiti Biodiversity Project.





Planting



and throwing seed balls into gorse



***Children are the conservationists (and volunteers) of the future.***





Marker sign



Circling the giant totara



Loaded up with plants for the Dell



Jan explaining the next activity





# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 01 November 2018

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**Next working bee: Sunday 04 November: 9-noon with morning tea**  
*Ramaroa Track - tidying ready for summer*

Please bring hand saws and loppers to trim bushes back from track edge and to remove gorse; bushes and grubbers to tackle thistles and arum lilies. Wear good gloves and footwear and follow the flags. Some releasing of plants might also be helpful.

*Last session 07 October – Ramaroa Wetland finishing off*





The last plants were planted in Ramaroa Wetland and up by the Cairn, a few rearranged as too close to the track. Gorse bushes were cut.

*Many thanks to: Dawn Bush, Liffet Stewart, Ann Evans, Theo Barsanti, Sue Campbell, Penny & Ian Redward, Ellen Soulliere, Bernard McManus, Richard Caldwell, Jan Nisbet and Bernard Cammack.*



The water had disappeared again from Liffet's Lake – about 50 carex secta had survived their long immersion. We will watch with interest what happens over the next year as the water level fluctuates. Thanks Ian for repairing the gap under the fence above the bright green seep.



Dawn and Ellen planting



The reservoir has almost refilled – swallows & ducks are using it

During this summer we hope to plan and open tracks connecting the Marines' Reservoir through the Ramaroa Wetland to the Kahikatea Picnic Area along Te Ara Ramaroa, giving nice loop options, with a couple of picnic tables. We are keen to provide a variety of track and recreation options close to the entrance, for smaller children and the less hardy as well as the full on tramping tracks already opened. When the culvert under the main race is replaced, the swampy area just at the beginning of Te Ara Ramaroa can be retired and a wetland area established immediately next to the Farm Race.





Rhabdothamnus are now established in the Dell. They are pollinated by bellbirds



Clematis forsteri, grown from seed gathered along Mataihuka Track, several have been planted around the Dell



Whau flowering above the Dell



Ian weed eating East Ridge Track, Penny rakes the cut grass away

The cabbage trees are in full flower and smell fantastic – look to your right and sniff as you walk out along the farm race, just before dropping down to the Ramaroa Stream culvert.



## ***STOP PRESS. UPPER TI KOUKA STREAM FENCING CONFIRMED***

Many thanks to DOC who will fund fencing around the Upper Ti Kouka Stream. This has been a goal for the Guardians since we first applied to the World Wildlife Fund in 2011 to retire the whole stream. We were granted sufficient to retire and plant the lower half. This planting is now well established and to get stock out of the rest of the stream will be a big gain. Plantings will reduce run off from farmland and further clean up Whareroa waterways.



A younger group at the start of Ti Kouka planting, 2011. The old pines are still there as a landmark.

We are also working towards some erosion planting on the farmed slopes to reduce erosion. Greater Wellington experts are assisting with this proposal, along with Beetham Pastural.

### ***Statistics***

In July to October Whareroa volunteers totalled 99 - over 1,400 hours were contributed (numbers are always an underestimate as people often do stuff without it being recorded). Thank you all!

### **Our contact details**

[whareroa.guardians@gmail.com](mailto:whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) for email

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# WHAREROA GUARDIANS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Update 16 November 2018

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**Next working bee: Sunday 02 December: 9-noon with morning tea**

*Ramaroa Wetland – releasing this year’s and last year’s plants and chipping away at gorse plants*

Please bring hand saws and loppers to remove gorse and grubbers to tackle weeds and small gorse plants. Wear good gloves and footwear and follow the flags.

*Last session 04 November – Te Ara Ramaroa Track tidying*





32 volunteers had a lovely time trimming back overhanging branches and grubbing out arum lilies, thistles and gorse. Lovely to have three new young volunteers from Paekakariki – Issie, Esme and Forest. They have taken some tree seedlings (matai, totara, kahikatea, pigeonwood etc) to grow on in the school nursery for future planting.

A couple of small tree falls were removed by Theo and Tom (Theo is approved to use chainsaw by DOC). T & T also mowed part of the track. John got right down into stream bed attacking lilies. The track is holding up well, it is a bit moist at the beginning but does give a great family walk.



Esme & Issie chomping lilies



Sue dealing to thistles



**Many thanks to:** River Kennedy-Martel, Mark & Pip Pennington, Issie Kennedy, Esme & Chris Bainbridge, Chris Barber, Sage Wills, Audrey Barber, Tony & Helen Griffiths, Ralph, Bernard, Zara, Harvey & Beauden Cammack, Nicola Vinten, Ann Evans, June, John & Sandra Rowland, Sue Campbell, Shane Williamson, Ian Redward, Alison & Hugh Parsons, Dawn Bush, Ruby and Kieran Durrant-Bush, Tom Porter and Jan Nisbet. We were spoiled for cakes with contributions from Nicola, Sue and Penny. Yum.

## *Thistles!*

Morning walkers Jan, Liffet, Penny & Ann have been tackling thistles along various tracks. They are flowering and we are keen to stop them setting seed. If you see a thistle flowering, please stomp on it. That will reduce the range of seed spreading – better still chop it off at the base if you have a tool. There has been spraying over the farmed land but some have escaped. Seeds germinate in disturbed ground but as the plant grows it kills grass and provides bare earth ready for next year's crop, hence their ability to spread rapidly if not controlled. Some are monsters, see below



## *Flowering*



Kaikomako along Carex Valley, Clematis forsteri – the wind has now blown away the petals, Ti Kouka along Ramaroa Track  
Pics by Jan, Penny & Ann.

The Carex Valley plantings are 9 years old – it was all bare paddock along the stream edge then.

## *Donation from Kapiti Pakeke Lions Club.*

Whareroa was fortunate to be nominated as one of the charities to receive a donation from this year's book sale. About 17 charities are to receive donations. Our donation will be used to purchase and erect a "Lizards" sign, amended from one already developed for QEPark by the Kapiti Biodiversity Project. Kapiti Pakeke Lions previously supported Whareroa with a \$500 donation towards plants and coming along to a planting bee. Their carex planting at the entrance to the Dell are now well established.

***Many thanks to the club.***



## Snippets

**Congratulations to Theo** for officially passing his 2 day 4WD training, and thanks to DOC for sponsoring.

**Ti Kouka Fencing.** Theo & Ian met Brian the fencer, with Drew from Beethams Pastural and Suzi from DOC to work out the best line to fence off the Upper Ti Kouka Stream. This block will keep us busy for 3 years!

**Lizards at Whareroa Project.** A small group has been established to determine how best to proceed with establishing a lizard friendly zone. This would involve planting, monitoring and very intensive trapping.

**Pippins – message from Liz Johnstone:** “Dear Ann. We had a lovely time tonight at Whareroa farm. Most of the families had not been there before and were hugely impressed. We had 24 Pippins there, 4 brownies and numerous siblings and parents. Permission has been given for use of photos, it was great to run into you. There is a potential path that could enhance the area, it’s only about 10 meters but gives a shortcut with a river crossing which can be quite exciting for younger children. (The crossing just inside the Gums). Thank you for providing such an amazing area for us to explore.”



**Totara and John Porter.** John was one of the key people who started the campaign to save Whareroa, along with Rachel Kiel-Taylor, back in 2003. He recently came down to the farm with his family to plant some totara at the beginning of the Water Intake Track. We have been planting totara as track landmarks.



John with Betty, Adrienne, Graham and Mark

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